

Good Neighborly News

Issue 4

Neighborhood Watch Publication

Fall

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains:

Please distribute this newsletter to your block participants. Need a white copy? Go to our website at www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us and subscribe to the newsletter or just print the current edition.

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Website
www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us

Emergency
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Non-emergency
(760) 931-2197

Crime Statistic Hotline
(760) 931-2201

Other Crime Statistics
(760) 931-2170

Police Watch Commander
(760) 931-2115

Traffic Unit
(760) 931-2106

Narcotics Unit
(760) 931-2193

Records Division
(760) 931-2119

Detective Division
(760) 931-2145

Senior Volunteer Patrol
(760) 931-2214

Community Services
(760) 931-2177

The Crime Prevention Unit's mission is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

How They Steal Your Identity

Some of the things identity thieves do include the following:

- File a change of address form in your name to divert mail to them so they can gather personal and financial data.
- Steal credit card payments and other outgoing mail from individual, unlocked mailboxes.
- Lift driver's license number, Social Security number, phone number, or other identifying numbers from checks you write or blank checks delivered to your home.
- Steal mail, especially envelopes containing bill payments, from unsecured, ungarded outgoing mail at work.
- Steal discarded applications for your "pre-approved" credit cards and fill them out with a different address that goes to them.
- Hack into a computer that contains your personal records and steal the data.
- "Phish" by sending a legitimate-looking e-mail that directs you to a phony, but legitimate-looking website that asks for your personal information and financial data.
- Use the camera in a cell phone to photograph your credit card or ATM card while you are using an ATM or buying something in a store.
- "Pharm" by hijacking whole sites to a location they control and then gather your personal and financial data when you believe you're



communicating through your customary service provider.

Some identity thieves use a victim's credit history to make long-term financial commitments, like taking out a mortgage or buying a car. They may also run up huge amounts of debt and then file bankruptcy in the victim's name, ruining the victim's credit history and reputation.

Not all identity thieves are after your money. They sometimes steal identities to commit other crimes. In

Washington, DC, an identity thief recently stole

information to forge a military identification card, threatening national security. Identity thieves sometimes steal or forge passports to bring people into the country for a number of illegal reasons, including human trafficking.

Here are some tips to prevent Identity Theft.

- Don't put outgoing mail, especially bill payments, in unlocked mailboxes.
- Drop your mail off at U.S. Postal Service mailboxes.
- Don't put mail in an unsecured mail station at work.
- Don't write your account number on the outside of an envelope containing a bill payment.



Teaming Up To Fight Fraud

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Better Business Bureau, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Secret Service, the Consumers League, and others joined forces to create the Consumer Sentinel website at www.consumer.gov. Consumer Sentinel is an innovative, international law enforcement fraud-fighting program. The site can be used for the following.

- Get the facts on consumer frauds including Internet cons, prize scams, work at home schemes, phone scams and identity theft.
- Report Fraud complaints so they can be shared with law enforcement officials across the United States and around the world.
- Learn how the United States works with other countries and the private sector to combat fraud.
- The site identifies trends, offers publications, resource links, complaint filing and safe Internet surfing for kids.

I.D. Theft Prevention Tips Cont.

- Have the post office hold your mail for you when you are out of town or have a trusted neighbor pick it up daily.
- Make sure no one is standing behind you when you use an ATM. He or she may use a cell phone with a camera to try to photograph your card number and pin number. Always shield your card and the screen.
- Pay your bills online, but only through a secure site. Don't give out your credit card number on the Internet unless the site is an encrypted secure site whose identity you are certain of.
- Don't leave your purses, wallets or other items containing personal information unattended even in a locked vehicle.

Are Your Children Home Alone?

If you are like many American parents who work and have to leave their children on their own after school every day, you might be anxious about your child's safety. By following the safeguards listed below, you can help ease some of the worry and take measures that will protect your kids even when you are not around.



What you can do!

- ✓ First, make sure your children are old enough and mature enough to care for themselves.
- ✓ Teach them basic safety rules.
- ✓ Know the three "W's": Where your kids are, what they're doing, and whom they are with.

Are your Children Ready? Can your children:

- ✓ Be trusted to go straight home after school?
- ✓ Easily use the telephone, locks, and kitchen appliances?
- ✓ Follow rules and instructions well?

- ✓ Handle unexpected situations without panicking?
- ✓ Stay alone without being afraid?

If so, then teach your children:

- ✓ To check in with you immediately after arriving home.
- ✓ How and when to call 9-1-1.
- ✓ How to give directions to your home, in case of emergency.
- ✓ To never accept gifts or rides from anyone without your permission.
- ✓ How to use the door and window locks, and the alarm system if you have one.
- ✓ To never open the door and let anyone into your home without permission.
- ✓ To never let a caller on the phone know that they're alone. Teach them to say "Mom can't come to the phone right now."
- ✓ To carry a house key with them in a safe place. Don't leave it under the mat or on the ledge outside the house.
- ✓ How to escape in case of a fire or other emergency.
- ✓ To not go into an empty house or apartment if things don't look right - a broken window, ripped screen, or open door.
- ✓ To let you know about anything that frightens them or makes them feel uncomfortable.

Keep these important phone numbers near the phone.

Emergency Help 9-1-1

Police / Fire _____

(non-emergency)

Mom's or Dad's work _____

Trusted Neighbor _____

School _____

